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**To:** <mabdur@house.mi.gov>  
**Date:** Wed, May 17, 2006 3:35:51 PM  
**Subject:** Provider unable to stay for meeting today. Thank you!!

Willow-Wind C.A.R.E.  
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May 17, 2006

Dear Committee Members, DHS representatives and Providers,

I would like to first of all thank all of the committee members, DHS representatives and Providers who have work so hard to make today possible for us to have a voice.

My first concern is to the issues of DHS billing methods. The current method is based on a hourly payment. However, most of the providers charge the client a "flat rate" or weekly rate. This method leaves the client (who already showed a financial burden for childcare) a higher co-pay. To go along with this issue I have found that as we begin the process of enrolling our clients that receive DHS, we are bound to have issues with that individual over the co-pay. The DHS caseworkers and providers are at an unfair advance. We are not able to have an open conversation with our client and all parties involved. We play the "he said, she said" game with the client as the middle man. Now I have contacted a caseworker or two over client disputes. However, I can't help but feel a meeting at the time of enrollment with all parties involved would help eliminate any confusion. I have found that when a client is told they will be receiving 100% payment from DHS, this must mean that there will be NO charges from my childcare program. This is not often the case.

My second issue is the lack of change to the "draft" regulations. I have attended other hearing and spoke about issues that need to be addressed. However, I have not seen any changes being made. I don't know if this means that my issues were addressed and not found to be needed or to be changed or modified. This could also mean that you have not addressed any issues. I am confused by this. I know that you are on overload and a lot is asked by you; however, I am in need of this information so I may prepare.

My third concern is the financial aspect that will fall on the providers. Now, I understand that we need to better educate our employees, which will pass along more education to the child. However, I am concerned that if DHS has not seen fit to increase the childcare rates for 13 years... how can you expect to jump the providers financial output at such a rapid rate. So then are the rates going to be pro-rated for the past 13 years?

I will give you an example...I am a provider that is in a school. I do not qualify for the exemption and must continue to maintain all regulations. With the new state education regulation I am now required to have all adults on school campuses to be finger printed. Now, add that to the extra training, education, certification that you will be requiring. I will have no choice but to pass this financial burden to the parents. I don't want to do this but what choice do I have.

Again I thank you for your time and I hope to hear or see some of these issue be addressed. I will expect to hear or see something prior to the implementation of the new regulations.

Mary Vermillion  
Willow-Wind C.A.R.E. Director